INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Circation No PCT/EP 03/09973

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B21L11/00 A44C11/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)} \\ \mbox{IPC 7} & \mbox{B21L} & \mbox{A44C} \end{array}$

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included. In the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	
X	EP 0 470 937 A (BELLA GIUSEPPINA DI BIGAZZI VI) 12 February 1992 (1992-02-12) column 1, line 42-51; figure 2	1,3,6	
A	US 5 682 736 A (CHIA CHEO ET AL) 4 November 1997 (1997-11-04) column 7, line 49 -column 8, line 64; figures 6-8 column 12, line 20-26; figure 24	1,2,4,6	
A	EP 0 233 351 A (GROTTO FERDINANDO ;BASSAN FRANCO (IT); CAMPORA GIOVANNI (IT)) 26 August 1987 (1987-08-26) abstract	2	
A	US 2002/035828 A1 (CHIA CHEO K ET AL) 28 March 2002 (2002-03-28) paragraphs '0004!,'0187!,'0226!	2-6	

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in annex.
Special categories of cited documents: A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance E* earlier document but published on or after the international filling date L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means P* document published prior to the international filling date but later than the priority date claimed	 "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search 20 January 2004	Date of mailing of the International search report 05/02/2004
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Augé, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International polication No
PCT/EP 03/09973

		PCT/EP 03/09973				
(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT						
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.				
	WO 00 59328 A (CHIA CHEO K ;CHIA HUY K (US); CHIA MEANG K (US)) 12 October 2000 (2000-10-12) page 8, line 18 -page 9, line 2 page 66, line 4-15; figures 18X,19X	4				

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internationa plication No PCT/EP 03/09973

Patent docu cited in search		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 04709	37 A	12-02-1992	IT EP	1241766 0470937		01-02-1994 12-02-1992
US 56827	36 A	04-11-1997	US US	5542244 5301498		06-08-1996 12-04-1994
EP 02333	51 A	26-08-1987	IT DE EP ES US	1202126 3681154 0233351 2026129 4718592	D1 A2 T3	02-02-1989 02-10-1991 26-08-1987 16-04-1992 12-01-1988
US 20020	35828 A1	28-03-2002	US US AU CA EP US US US US US	6560955 6209306 4332200 2372630 1182946 2003074881 2003074880 6532725 6481196 2002189283 0059328	B1 A1 A2 A1 A1 B1 B1 A1	13-05-2003 03-04-2001 23-10-2000 12-10-2000 06-03-2002 24-04-2003 24-04-2003 18-03-2003 19-11-2002 19-12-2002 12-10-2000
WO 00593	28 A	12-10-2000	US AU CA EP US WO US US US US	6209306 4332200 2372630 1182946 2002035828 0059328 2003074881 2003074880 6560955 6532725 6481196 2002189283	A A1 A2 A1 A2 A1 A1 B1 B1	03-04-2001 23-10-2000 12-10-2000 06-03-2002 28-03-2002 12-10-2000 24-04-2003 24-04-2003 13-05-2003 18-03-2003 19-11-2002 19-12-2002